

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 NSCE-00 DRC-01

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R 020145Z OCT 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2481

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CH, US

SUBJECT: ATMOSPHERICS OF PRC 25TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION IN
GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE

1. ADDRESSEES WILL HAVE SEEN FROM NCNA RELEASES THAT PRC INVITED A GREAT CLUTCH OF GUESTS TO 25TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION IN GREAT HALL. OUR RECORDS DO NOT GO BACK, BUT THIS MAY HAVE BEEN THE BIGGEST SUCH RECEPTION YET. IN ADDITION TO FOREIGN DIGNITARIES AND "FRIENDS," MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, ETC., IN A CLEAR DISPLAY OF UNITY LARGE NUMBERS OF CHINESE WERE INVITED, INCLUDING PERSONAGES WITH CURRENT PRETENSIONS TO POLITICAL IMPORTANCE AND MUSEUM PIECES FROM STORAGE BINS OF CHINESE POLITICS WHO WERE DUSTED OFF FOR THE OCCASION.

2. IF NOTHING ELSE, THE CONVERGENCE OF SO MANY GUESTS ON THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE FOR THE 7:10 P.M. SEATING TIME CREATED WHAT
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PROBABLY WAS PEKING'S FIRST TRAFFIC JAM. LASH-UP OF LIMOUSINES,

BUSES, SHANGHAIS, AND MISCELLANEOUS CARS DRIVEN BY DIPLOMATS EXTENDED CLEAR ACROSS TIEN AN MEN SQUARE, WITH WHITE-CLAD TRAFFIC POLICEMENT GESTICULATING AMIDST THE CONFUSION BUT NOT HELPING MUCH. JUDGING BY SOME EMPTY SEATS INSIDE HALL, A FEW GUESTS NEVER MADE IT.

3. USLO CONTINGENT (ACTING CHIEF AND WIFE; MRS. BRUCE) WAS QUITE WELL RECEIVED. THOUGH SEATED IN THE BACK OF THE SECTION RESERVED FOR DISTINGUISHED VISITORS AND MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, USLO GUESTS WERE NEVERTHELESS WITHIN THE PREFERRED AREA AND ADJACENT TO TABLES WHERE CHARGES WERE SEATED. TABLE HOST WAS LIN PING, DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN DEPARTMENT OF MFA, WHICH WAS NOT BAD CONSIDERING THAT HIS BEAT INCLUDES ALL OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA PLUS AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. ALSO SEATED AT TABLE WERE DR. AND MRS. MELVIN SCHWARTZ OF STANFORD, MEMBERS OF VISITING U.S. HIGH-ENERGY PHYSICS DELEGATION, AND CHAO CHIA OF MFA AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN DEPARTMENT.

4. CHOU EN-LAI WAS OBVIOUSLY THE HIT OF THE EVENING. HIS APPEARANCE WAS GREETED WITH BURST OF CLAPPING (WHICH, HOWEVER, SHORTLY BECAME RATHER PERFUNCTORY RHYTHMIC EXERCISE AS OTHERS IN VIP PARTY ACCOMPANYING HIM FILED IN), AND AS NOTED BY NCNA HIS SPEECH LATER ON WAS PUNCTUATED WITH APPLAUSE. THIS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED MORE TO TRIBUTE TO THE MAN THAN TO WHAT HE SAID, WHICH WAS RELATIVELY INNOCUOUS AS CHINESE SPEECHES GO. AUDIENCE APPEARED TO BE IN MOOD TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO CHOU AFTER HIS TWO MONTHS ABSENCE AND TO WISH HIM WELL PERSONALLY. CHOU DELIVERED HIS SPEECH IN A FIRM VOICE, WHICH APPEARED TO SOME OBSERVERS TO BE RATHER STRAINED. PERHAPS THE BREVITY OF CHOU'S REMARKS WAS TO MAKE HIS TASK EASIER. FOLLOWING THE SPEECH CHOU IN CHARACTERISTIC FASHION WENT ALONG LINE OF TABLES IN FIRST ROW TO EXCHANGE TOASTS, BUT DID NOT SPEND MUCH TIME AT IT.

5. CONTRARY TO THE IMPRESSION WHICH NCNA SOUGHT TO CONVEY, APART FROM CHOU'S REAPPEARANCE THE RECEPTION WAS A DULL AFFAIR. AFTER THE SPEECH PEOPLE SAT AROUND WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN, BUT NOTHING EVER DID. TWO PLA ORCHESTRAS, ONE MODERN AND ONE CLASSIC CHINESE, TRIED HARD TO ENLIVEN THE SCENE BUT WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS. EVENTUALLY THE BRIGHT LIGHTS IN THE HALL WENT BACK ON AGAIN, SUGGESTING THAT ONE OF THE FOREIGN DIGNITARIES OR THE DEAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS MIGHT MAKE A SPEECH REPLYING TO CHOU'S, BUT THE PERSON WHO EVENTUALLY APPEARED AT THE MICROPHONE WAS THE MFA PROTOCOL CHIEF TELLING THE ASSEMBLED GUESTS THAT THE AFFAIR WAS OVER, AND THAT THEY SHOULD GO HOME. THIS THEY DID, GIVEN THE COMPLEXITIES OF SORTING THROUGH THE CROWD AND FINDING THE PROPER TRANSPORTATION AGAIN OUTSIDE THE HALL. THE TIME WAS JUST SHORT OF 9:00 P.M.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PEKING01704
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740277-0959
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731055/aaaaboja.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATMOSPHERICS OF PRC 25TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION IN GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005